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Entertainment

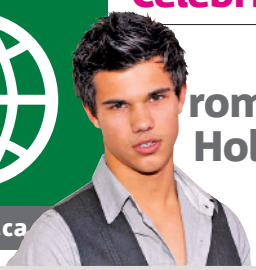
Jackman's Wolverine gets edgier

pg 14

Celebrity Buzz

More romance in Hollywood North?

pg 16



Former student sentenced in UBC bomb threats

COURT A former University of B.C. student who emailed bomb threats to the school to avoid giving a presentation was given a yearlong conditional sentence yesterday.

Hwi Lee, 19, was also sentenced to two years probation, a six-month 10 p.m. curfew and 50 hours of community service, and has been banned from campus.

Lee pleaded guilty in July to writing threatening emails, which forced the Biosciences building to be shut down twice and triggered a large police investigation at the school.

METRO VANCOUVER

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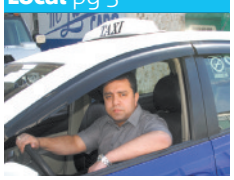
Local pg 2
Bus driver assaulted

Local pg 3



Canada Line concerns cabs

Please recycle

3rd mild flu case in B.C.

More cases, even deaths, can be expected, says epidemiologist

TWITTER.COM

Michelle Bossi of Victoria, here in a 2008 Twitter photo, is believed to be the province's third confirmed case of swine flu. More, pg 4.

JEFF HODSON
jeff.hodson@metronews.ca

B.C. should prepare itself for further swine flu cases, hospitalization and even death, a lead epidemiologist said yesterday as she confirmed the province's third mild case of swine flu.

The infected Vancouver Island woman had returned from Mexico on Saturday.

Dr. Danuta Skowronski, an influenza epidemiologist at the B.C. Centre for Disease Control, said the small number of cases is reassuring, but nothing to be complacent about.

"I expect there to be more cases," Skowronski said. "I expect that there may be hospitalizations and deaths. What we need to do is think ahead and prepare for that possibility."

The number of confirmed cases of swine flu in Canada rose to 13. All are considered mild and none have required hospitalization.

The third case is believed to be Michelle Bossi, 30, of Victoria. On her Twitter feed, Bossi posted, "Geez I'm so lucky to be the first case of swine flu in Victoria!"

An earlier post said she was in an isolation room in a hospital and in another she said she was in a Mexican hospital.

Skowronski said the spread of the H1N1 swine flu outbreak may be hampered because it is hitting at a time of year when influenza viruses tend to go on "hiatus."

"Influenza viruses don't like sun. They don't like UV light. There's a reason why influenza viruses circulate during the winter period … we may actually be entering a hiatus period, a period where, because of nature, it is not facilitated in its spread."

Travel in Mexico

- WestJet and Air Canada suspended flights to several destinations in Mexico yesterday after Canada issued an advisory against non-essential travel to that country.

Tour operator Transat AT also said it was postponing flights to Mexico until June 1 and Carnival Cruise Lines cancelled Mexico stops for three of its cruise ships.

Mexico's tourism industry — which attracted $13 billion from foreign tourists last year — is taking a beating as countries around the world issue warnings as fear spreads over the flu outbreak that has killed 159 people.

"A group of 150 people cancelled yesterday. More groups cancelled today," said Sara Ruiz, the tourism secretary in the state of Quintana Roo where Cancun is located.

Mexico City's hotel association said about 60 per cent of the capital's hotels have reported cancellations and flights out are reportedly overbooked.

"They are really rushing to get out," said Alexander Kittler, 32, a flight attendant for Lufthansa who was between flights in Mexico City.

He added that some of his colleagues bought supplies of food and water when they arrived before holing up in their hotels until they could leave.

One said she planned to wear surgical gloves on the flight back.

METRO VANCOUVER

MORE ON TRAVEL, PG 7

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Greens recycle signs

Ryan Conroy, Green party candidate for Vancouver-Hastings, has announced he's running a zero-waste sign campaign ahead of the May 12 provincial election. Conroy says he's reusing signs from the municipal campaign. METRO VANCOUVER

Local

A great place to live

Vancouver has been ranked the best city in North America in which to live and the fourth best in the world, according to the Mercer Quality Of Living survey. The list, which was released yesterday, looked at the quality of life in 215 cities. Vienna, Zurich and Geneva took the top three spots while Baghdad ranked last. METRO VANCOUVER

Fifth senior staffer leaves city hall since November

POLITICS A fifth senior manager is leaving Vancouver's city hall.

James Ridge, a deputy city manager, has taken a job as associate vice-president of enrolment services at the University of B.C.

"I don't think it's unusual to see turnover with change in government," said Mayor Gregor Robertson yesterday. "We have a really ambitious agenda and people will choose a time to move on when it makes sense to them."

Ridge, a former Canadian Forces major, served as the chief administrative officer for the District of North Vancouver. He will stay with the city until the end of May to ensure a smooth transition. He has worked for the city for two years and recently became chief information officer.

Four other senior managers, including former city manager Judy Rodgers and director of finance Estelle Lo, have left the city since November's civic election.

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

metronews.ca
What's online today.

Video A failure to adapt to a changing market led to the demise of Pontiac at **metronews.ca/canada**

Videos Nova Scotians look set to head to the polls as minority Tories clash with the opposition on the economy at **metronews.ca/canada**

Blogs Hollywood Rants about lesser known superheroes that deserve the Hollywood treatment

Bus driver assaulted

Operator shoved after confronting 'bumper hitching' skater

DEREK MOSCATO
for Metro Vancouver

There are renewed concerns for the safety of bus drivers after a Coast Mountain Bus Company operator was forcefully shoved in North Vancouver.

The assault happened after the driver confronted a skateboarder trying to ride the bumper of a bus on Friday.

According to a witness, the individual had been asked to leave the bus after he entered by prying open the back doors. The RCMP arrived shortly after the incident and arrested a man.

The driver, said the witness, was a bit dishevelled and lost his glasses in the melee, but was otherwise okay.

According to Jim Houlahan of CAW 111, the union representing bus operators, TransLink has a general policy that discourages drivers from leaving their seat.

"Where there's a clearly perceived threat outside the bus, they would not want the operator to get off the bus to deal with that." He said. "It's a policy that can't be strictly prescribed for every circumstance."

Coast Mountain Bus Company spokesman Derek Zabel said that so-called "bumper hitching" with a skateboard is dangerous and could be deadly.

"In this situation, an operator would get out of the seat to check and make sure everybody is OK and to see what is happening," he said. "An operator isn't leaving the seat to engage somebody."

According to Const. Lindsey Houghton, there are no specific recommendations for bus drivers faced with lawless behaviour, but police encourage them to follow the same advice offered to civilians: Minimize conflict and avoid fighting back.

However, Houlahan believes physical attacks will never go away entirely.

He added that some safety measures being explored include glare-free fibreglass barriers, which "would go a long way to reducing the majority of assaults, and would eliminate the sucker punches and the spitting incidents."

Attacks down

- There were 143 assaults on bus drivers in 2008, down from 240 the previous year.
- The drop can be attributed in part to TransLink's introduction of the proof-of-payment system.

World-renowned chef offers advice to local eateries

KRISTEN THOMPSON
kristen.thompson@metronews.ca

RECESSION With Vancouverites watching both their waistlines and their wallets, restaurant owners — especially high-end establishments — need to resist the urge to turn a profit and instead focus on value and service, according a visiting world-renown chef.

New York-based Daniel Boulud, who was in town yesterday to sign his newest cookbook at DB Bistro, his Vancouver eatery, said his high-end chain is doing well despite the economic downturn.

"It's not that they don't want to go out, it's just they want their money to be well spent," said Boulud.

He said his other Vancouver restaurant, Lumière, is offering an affordably priced three-course menu for $55 to let foodies eat well without breaking the bank.

"One thing I've learned is not to take (success) for granted," Boulud said, adding that diners appreciate when restaurants acknowledge tough times by offering specials and keeping prices low.

"It's not about being hip, it's more about being special and caring, but without the pretension of what a fancy restaurant can be," said Boulud.

KRISTEN THOMPSON/METRO VANCOUVER

New York-based chef Daniel Boulud outside his Vancouver restaurant DB Bistro yesterday.

Alleged UN gang leader pleads guilty in Seattle

COURT The alleged leader of the United Nations gang, Clayton Roueche, pleaded guilty to three counts of smuggling marijuana, cocaine and money laundering yesterday in a Seattle courtroom.

Roueche, 33, who has been in a Seattle jail since May 2008, is allegedly the founder of the notorious UN gang that operates in the Lower Mainland and has been involved in a recent, bloody turf war with the Red Scorpions gang.

Roueche was caught by U.S. authorities with trying to cross the border into Mexico to attend a wedding. As part of his guilty plea, Roueche said he used planes and helicopters to smuggle drugs into the U.S. from Canada. KELSEA BLOXAM/ FOR METRO VANCOUVER

News in brief

GROW-OPS The RCMP and City of Richmond have introduced a program designed to reduce criminal activity and grow-ops in rental properties. Rent Safe Richmond offers landlords and property owners tips for screening applicants and common signs of grow-ops, among other things.

GRASS FIRE Drivers on Highway 99 near Delta yesterday were met with a blanket of smoke from grass fires burning, news1130.com reports. Firefighters were on the scene working to keep two large fires burning near the railway tracks along Mud Bay under control.

HOUSE FIRE No one was injured in an overnight house fire that broke out in the attic of a Ladner townhome and spread to two other units, cknw.com reports. Investigators are working to figure out how the fire broke out on Monday night.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

AHL team to relocate to Abbotsford
Professional hockey is coming to Abbotsford. The Calgary Flames' farm team is moving from Quad Cities, Ill., next season, the American Hockey League announced yesterday. Tickets to games will run from $12 to $36. The team will likely be renamed. METRO VANCOUVER

Downturn seen for taxis

New Canada Line will steal business, cab companies say

KELSEA BLOXAM
for Metro Vancouver

Representatives from some Vancouver taxi companies are expecting a 20 to 60 per cent decrease in business once the Canada Line opens this fall.

Saif Ullah, general manager of MacLure's Cabs, anticipated the Canada Line will be a convenient and lower-priced competitor.

"Everyone likes to save money and everyone likes to try new things," Ullah said. "We're expecting things to slow by 40 per cent, but things are already slow with the recession."

He added that trips between the airport and cruise ships are also down. With a fifth cruise line announcing this week that it will no longer operate out of Vancouver, the future is looking dim.

KELSEA BLOXAM/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Saif Ullah, general manager of MacLure's Cabs in Vancouver, said he expects the Canada Line to be a lower-priced competitor.

Hafiz Khan of Richmond-based Garden City Cabs said his company relies heavily on traffic to and from the airport: "The airport is a big part of our business. We anticipate a 60 per cent loss."

LimoJet Gold Limousine Services manager Kinder Olak compared the Canada Line to services already available in Tokyo and New York City.

"Businessmen will probably prefer it," said Olak. "With only one piece of luggage and no traffic, if they have a meeting downtown in an hour, it's probably faster."

BlackTop Cab president Amrik Mahil labelled the Canada Line as being "new and novel."

"Initially we're expecting business to be down 20 per cent, but once the excitement wears off, business should return," Mahil said yesterday.

The Canada Line will stretch more than 19 kilometres, with travel times between YVR and downtown Vancouver estimated at 26 minutes.

News in brief

DEATH A Maple Ridge man who was beaten by a group of teenagers outside a gas station has died of his injuries, police said yesterday.

ELECTORAL REFORM Nirvana co-founder Krist Novoselic is in Vancouver Friday to attend a forum on electoral reform at Robson Square.

GAMES Organizers unveiled the first 20 projects of the Cultural Olympiad 2010, which begin Jan. 22 and run through the Olympics and Paralympics.

FIRE Last night's commute along Grandview Highway was disrupted as firefighters fought brushfires, news1130.com reports. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Police laud Delta teen's actions during break-in

CRIME A 14-year-old girl is being lauded for helping police catch an alleged thief after hiding in a closet and using phone signals to communicate with a 9-1-1 operator while an intruder rummaged through the room.

The Delta teenager was home alone the night of April 24 when she heard someone at the front door, police said yesterday.

She wasn't expecting anyone, so she took a cordless phone and hid in a closet.

"She initially called her father, who then called 9-1-1 and gave police his daughter's information and home address and phone number," Const. Sharlene Brooks said.

"A Delta police dispatcher placed a call to the house and spoke directly to Olivia … (who) stayed on the phone and provided the information needed to get police on the way."

Paul Perrault, 55, of Vancouver was arrested at the scene and faces numerous charges.

KRISTEN THOMPSON/
METRO VANCOUVER

Number of EI claims skyrocketed

STATS The number of people collecting Employment Insurance in Vancouver increased by 75 per cent — 12,300 workers — in the 12 months leading up to February, according to a report released by Statistics Canada yesterday.

Across B.C., the number of people receiving EI rose to 63,700 in February, an 11.6 per cent spike from the previous month.

The news was equally grim across the country, as the number of people on EI increased in almost every province to reach 610,200 nationally in February.

MINÉ SALKIN/
FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Unemployment

- Canada's unemployment rate in March climbed to a seven-year high of eight per cent.

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PEOPLE POWERED

Obama requests $1.5 billion to boost swine flu defences

U.S. President Barack Obama asked congressional leaders for an additional $1.5 billion yesterday to enhance the U.S. response to the swine flu outbreak. White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said the funds could be used to build up antiviral stockpiles and develop a vaccine. REUTERS

Canada/World

Masking flu fight

Canadian-designed facemask catches attention

A facemask, borne out of the 2003 SARS crisis, is catching the attention of governments and health-care institutions from around the world as fears of a pandemic continue to soar.

Toronto-based FaceSeal Technologies is already working with officials in Mexico, and is fielding requests for its next-generation facemasks from Israel, Germany, Korea and the Philippines. Hospitals, EMS and other front-line services in Canada and the U.S. are also interested in the facemask.

"We are trying to rev up production as quickly as possible because we are getting so many demands," said Dr. Gabor Lantos, a co-inventor of the facemask and director of personal protective equipment development at FaceSeal Technologies.

The form-fitting facemask, technically called a respirator and dubbed FitSeal, adheres to the face without the need for elastic bands and completely seals off the nose and mouth. Lantos said FitSeal is designed to better protect front-line workers from airborne infectious disease, including influenza.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Governments dealing with swine flu are taking notice of a facemask designed in Canada during the 2003 SARS crisis.

TORSTAR FILE PHOTO

Officials want to herd 'swine' out of flu name

ILLNESS What's in a name? U.S. pork producers are finding that the name of the virus spreading from Mexico is affecting business, prompting U.S. officials to argue for changing the name from swine flu.

At a news briefing, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack took pains to repeatedly refer to the flu as the "H1N1 virus."

Israel has already rejected the name swine flu and opted to call the disease "Mexico flu," as Jewish dietary laws forbid eating pork.

The Paris-based World Organization for Animal Health also objected to the name, saying the virus contains avian and human components and no pig so far has been found ill with the disease.

And there is growing sentiment in the farm sector to call it the North American virus — although disease expert Anthony Fauci told a Senate hearing the swine flu designation reflected scientific naming protocol.

For U.S. pork producers the swine flu name has hurt them, forcing government officials into the position of stressing that American pork is safe to eat. REUTERS

No origins yet

- Keiji Fukuda, the World Health Organization's acting assistant director-general, said it was too early to pinpoint the origins of the virus, and that there was still no solid explanation for why cases in Mexico have been more severe than in other countries.

Oslo **Jean on tour**

BJØRN SIGURDSØEN/REUTERS

Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean and her husband, Jean-Daniel Lafond, attend a state banquet at the Norwegian Royal Palace in Oslo yesterday. Jean is on a state visit to Norway.

Family of violence victims meet

HEALING A 14-kilogram boulder aimed at a school bus was hurled off a Whitemud Drive overpass in Edmonton, killing Robert Stanley instantly.

"Why?" was the question Bruce Stanley asked, when he stared into the eyes of his father's killer.

"I finally found out what remorse was all about," he said. Robert Stanley was killed in June 2002, when that falling boulder smashed through the windshield of the school bus he was driving.

People shattered by violent crime met yesterday at Edmonton's Grant MacEwan College, sharing how restorative justice helped them heal.

VICTORIA HANDYSIDES/ METRO CANADA

Civil rights **Truth in Washington**

JASON REED/REUTERS

U.S. first lady Michelle Obama unveils a bust of 19th-century civil and women's rights activist Sojourner Truth in Washington yesterday. Truth met with Abraham Lincoln in 1864, and delivered her signature "Ain't I a woman?" speech at a women's rights convention in 1851.

Life was elsewhere, Iggy writes

POLITICS In his latest book, True Patriot Love, Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff describes growing up in a Canadian household with parents who believed "life was elsewhere."

"This is how it is in small countries and provincial societies everywhere in the world," Ignatieff writes. "My mother used to go about the house humming a Judy Garland song with a line about how, if you haven't played the Palace, you might as well be dead.

"The Palace theatre was elsewhere — not in Ottawa, where I grew up, but in the big, bright world beyond."

The passage is a fascinating insight into a would-be prime minister accused by some of being a stranger to his country. He found the bright lights irresistible and spent almost three decades "playing the Palace" abroad — first in London as a journalist and writer and then in the United States as a Harvard University professor.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Convention

- Ignatieff's return home becomes official when he is confirmed as his Liberal party leader at a convention that begins tomorrow in Vancouver.
- True Patriot Love: Four Generations in Search of Canada is Ignatieff's first book since succeeding Stéphane Dion as interim leader last December.

Pakistan begins offensive against Taliban militants

RAWALPINDI Pakistani forces backed by jets and helicopter gunships began an offensive yesterday against Taliban fighters in a valley 100 kilometres from Islamabad, part of a new campaign to halt the advance of the militant Islamists.

A military spokesman said it would take up to a week to clear an estimated 500 militants from the Buner district, the latest target of an operation launched on Sunday.

The Taliban's advances across Malakand have raised alarm in Washington that militants were zeroing in on Islamabad, and have stoked fears the country would slide into chaos.

Pakistan's President Asif Ali Zardari agreed this month to impose Islamic sharia law in Malakand to persuade the Taliban in Swat to lay down arms. Instead, emboldened by the concessions, the Taliban began spreading. REUTERS

U.S. senator switches sides

WASHINGTON U.S. Senator Arlen Specter abandoned the Republican party for the Democrats yesterday, putting them within reach of a 60-seat majority that could give them absolute control of the Senate.

"This is a painful decision," Specter told reporters of the stunning decision, which boosted his 2010 re-election chances to a sixth six-year term by sidestepping a tough challenge in the Republican primary from conservative Pat Toomey. REUTERS

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Comment & Views

Comment

Moralists now stalking Craigslist

TheWestView

Craigslist founder Craig Newmark was in Vancouver yesterday, but on the advice of his lawyers, he kept a low profile. So he cancelled all his media interviews and confined his remarks to the Mortgage Brokers Association of British Columbia, a comparatively safe crowd.

The reason? An alleged serial stalker/killer has managed to do what his newspaper competitors have failed to do: Put Newmark on the defensive.

Prosecutors think a Boston University medical student, Philip Markoff, stalked women who placed erotic ads on Craigslist, and accuse him of killing one of his victims, 25-year-old Julissa Brisman, who advertised her, um, massage services on the site.

And that has brought out the moralists in force. Newmark now faces a lawsuit in Illinois, and if the rhetoric favoured by the Cook County sheriff is any indication, Newmark is in big trouble: "Craigslist is the largest single source of prostitution in the nation," he growled, as quoted in Computerworld.

Then there's the usual gang of people who start with "P": Police, psychologists, pundits, all of whom believe the Internet, never mind just Craigslist, is not a safe place to go 24/7, never mind after dark.

Newmark, who still runs Craigslist with a small band of dedicated webbies, comes across as an Internet idealist who hearkens back to the days when it was the domain of a few harmless geeks who thought they had a better idea: Free classifieds. But he's clearly a threat, if not to children, runaways, etc., then to the newspapers of the world.

Recently, for example, I advertised my car on Craigslist. I could keep the ad up there as long as I liked — for nothing. I received numerous inquiries from all over Metro Vancouver, and finally sold the car to a happy customer. The same ad in one of Vancouver's daily newspapers would have cost more than $100 a month, which is why classified ad lines are down and Canwest is consolidating its classified ad desk in … Calgary. I'm just surprised the Aspers don't move the whole thing to Mumbai, where it's still possible to be a millionaire for a few more weeks.

So Newmark is not going to get a lot of sympathy in the media. Except here. It seems to me if he has to shut down his erotic ads, all the traditional media who continue to subsist desperately on their own erotic ad sections will have to do the same.

But that's not good enough. There are still plenty of homicidal perverts lurking in the shadows cast by bricks and mortar … and trees. So, just to be safe, let's shut down the bars, the schoolyards and the parks.

That should do it.

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting; vancouverletters@metronews.ca.

Word on the street: Do you think airlines and governments are doing enough to ensure security on flights?

Tiffany Reid
age 29, Vancouver
A: Airport security is almost a bit ridiculous now. I think they need to do more thorough background checks on the people actually buying airline tickets instead.

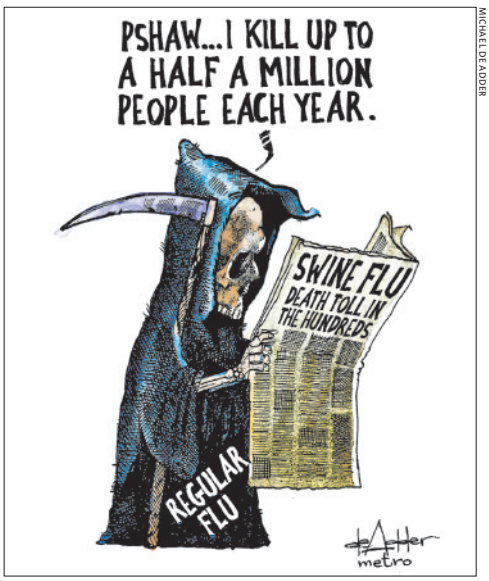
Josef Watson-Mackay
age 19, North Delta
A: I think they do do enough. Airlines can't be perfect and catch everyone … Why wasn't more done before to ensure security on planes?

Asia Gourlay
age 21, Vancouver
A: Airport security isn't bad; I think it's enough to ensure our safety … Taking off your shoes and not bringing aboard shampoo isn't that much to ask.

Mark Owen
age 17, Toronto
A: I've never flown in my entire life, nor will I ever, due to my lack of government confidence … My life in your hands? Maybe tomorrow.

Megan Henwood
age 18, Parrsboro, N.S.
A: No, not really. Look at what happened in Jamaica last week … Somehow some guy managed to get on a plane with a gun, so obviously something is wrong there.

Dean Koehli
age 33, Edmonton
A: Yes, they're doing enough. They pretty much strip you down to your socks and underwear at security.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

It's your turn to tell others what you think. Email your thoughts and opinions to: vancouverletters@metronews.ca
Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number – street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

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Canad Inns backs out of Winnipeg water park plans 7

Hospitality company Canad Inns has pulled the plug on its planned indoor water park in Winnipeg. The city, however, is still interested in building the attraction. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

Business

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Mexico trips halted

Flu prompts companies to cancel bookings

Thousands of Canadians could have their holiday plans disrupted as tour operators cancel Mexico bookings over the next month in the wake of the widening swine flu outbreak.

Montreal-based Transat AT Inc., Canada's largest tour operator, said yesterday it is "postponing" flights from Canada to Mexico operated by Transat and its partner airlines until June 1.

However, the seller of packaged holidays will maintain its schedule of return flights, and will be adding new flights to bring home customers, passengers and about 20 employees now in Mexico.

Transat said it took the measures because of the World Health Organization's decision to raise its pandemic alert to Level 4, with Level 6 being a full-blown pandemic, and because of travel directives issued by governments of several countries, including Canada.

Air Canada and Air Canada Vacations are also suspending flights to Cancun, Cozumel and Puerto Vallarta until June 1 due to the outbreak. The airline will maintain service to Mexico City, and flights to Cancun, Cozumel and Puerto will continue until May 4 to bring home passengers.

Affected customers of both carriers will be allowed to rebook at a later date or travel to another destination, the companies said. However, passengers must cover the price difference if the rebooked vacations are more expensive and will not receive refunds.

Similarly, Sunquest Vacations said yesterday it was cancelling trips until June 4, giving passengers the option to rebook to other destinations, while Sunwing Vacations has cancelled all trips until May 29. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Ships stopped

- Carnival Cruise Lines said it had cancelled Mexico stops yesterday for three of its cruise ships due to the swine flu alert. The company said it was evaluating plans going forward.

Nexen **Falling profit**

JACK GUSANO/REUTERS

Marvin Romanow, president and CEO of Nexen Inc., addresses shareholders at the company's annual general meeting in Calgary yesterday. Nexen said yesterday its quarterly profit fell 79 per cent to $135 million as oil prices skidded, but the results beat expectations due to output and marketing gains.

Petro-Canada loses $47M

ENERGY Petro-Canada, which is in the process of being acquired by Suncor Energy Inc., reported a first-quarter loss yesterday on plunging oil and natural gas prices.

The company lost $47 million, or 10 cents per share, down from a profit of $1.08 billion, or $2.22 a share, in the year-earlier quarter.

Petro-Canada agreed last month to be bought by Suncor for shares initially valued at $18.4 billion to create Canada's biggest energy company.

With the deal expected to be wrapped up later this year, Petro-Canada is putting restraints on spending and husbanding its cash as it looks to weather oil and gas prices that have been deflated by economic turmoil and waning demand. **REUTERS**

Agency sees 22% export drop in '09

TRADE Canadian exports look set to drop 22 per cent in 2009, hurt by falling commodity prices and global consumer demand, causing the economy to shrink before steadying next year, Export Development Canada said yesterday. **REUTERS**

Business in brief

CONFIDENCE The U.S. Conference Board reported the biggest one-month jump in its consumer confidence index since 2005, with some expectations the economic downturn may be reaching a bottom. The index rose to 39.2 from an upwardly revised 26.9 in March.

MEAT The European Union has no plan to restrict imports of meat, pork products or livestock from the United States because of the swine flu outbreak, the EU's executive arm said yesterday. **REUTERS**

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Yankees cut ticket prices

The New York Yankees are lowering premium ticket prices and offering some ticketholders free passes to fill empty seats as the baseball team deals with the recession. The team is halving the price of first-row Legends Suite season seats to $1,250 from $2,500. REUTERS

Sports

Arena football offer for Vick

The Albany Firebirds of the arenafootball2 league have offered an incentive-laden contract to former Atlanta Falcons quarterback Michael Vick. Vick was suspended by the NFL in August 2007 after pleading guilty to a federal felony charge involving an illegal dog fighting ring. He is currently serving a 23-month prison sentence.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: JOHN.CHICK@METRONEWS.CA

SCOREBOARD

NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Washington 2 N.Y. Rangers 1
Carolina 4 New Jersey 3

NBA

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Orlando 91 Philadelphia 78
Boston 106 Chicago 104 (OT)
Dallas 99 San Antonio 90
Portland 88 Houston 77

MLB

YESTERDAY'S AL RESULTS

Toronto 8 Kansas City 1
Chicago White Sox 2-1 Seattle 1-9
Cleveland 9 Boston 8
L.A. Angels 7 Baltimore 5
Minnesota 4 Tampa Bay 3
N.Y. Yankees 11 Detroit 0
Texas 5 Oakland 4

YESTERDAY'S NL RESULTS

Atlanta 2 St. Louis 1
Philadelphia 7 Washington 1
Florida 7 N.Y. Mets 4
Houston 8 Cincinnati 3
Milwaukee 6 Pittsburgh 5
San Diego 4 Colorado 3
Chicago Cubs at Arizona
L.A. Dodgers at San Francisco

Sports in brief

NFL The Arizona Cardinals released veteran running back Edgerrin James yesterday.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Caps, Canes advance

Stanley Cup
2009 **Playoffs**

Sergei Fedorov's tally with just under five minutes left in regulation was the difference, as the Washington Capitals posted a 2-1 victory over the New York Rangers in Game 7 of their first-round Eastern Conference series in Washington last night.

Alexander Semin notched the other goal for the Capitals, who responded with three consecutive wins to take the series, 4-3.

It marked just the second time in team annals that the club won a playoff series after trailing three games to one, following a Game 7 overtime victory in the 1988 Patrick Division semifinals against the Flyers.

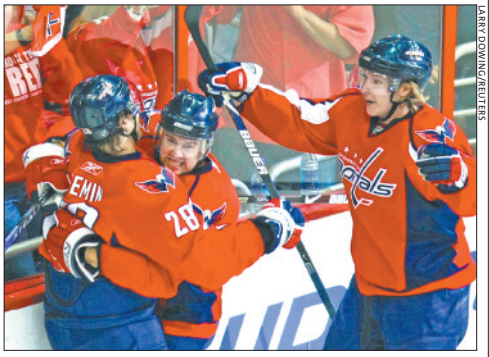
The second-seeded Capitals will face the four-seed Penguins in the second round.

Hurricanes 4 Devils 3

Jussi Jokinen and Eric Staal scored 48 seconds apart in the final 80 seconds of regulation to lead the Carolina Hurricanes to a stunning 4-3 victory over the New Jersey Devils in the decisive Game 7 of their first round Eastern Conference series in Newark, N.J.

Tuomo Ruutu and Ray Whitney also scored for Carolina, which entered the third period with a 3-2 deficit, but erupted late to shock the Devils. Jokinen tied the game with 1:20 left, and then Staal netted the game-winner with 31.7 seconds remaining.

Cam Ward finished with 32 saves for the Hurricanes, who will face the top-seeded Boston Bruins in the second round.



LARRY DOWING/REUTERS

Washington Capital Alexander Semin celebrates his goal against the New York Rangers with his teammates in Washington yesterday. The Capitals won 2-1 to take the series.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Spezza leads Canadians to victory

IIHF Jason Spezza scored a pair of goals to lead Canada to a 7-3 win over Slovakia yesterday in the final game of Group A play at the 2009 World Hockey Championship.

Shea Weber added a goal and three assists for the Canadians, who wrapped up the preliminary round with a record of 3-0 and outscored their opponents 22-4. Steven Stamkos chipped in a goal and an assist in the victory, while Derek Roy, Ian White and Shane Doan also scored.

Martin St. Louis chipped in four helpers while Dwayne Roloson made 34 saves for Canada, which will play next in the qualification round.

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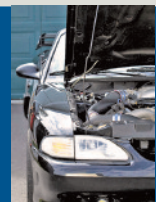

Electrifying kit

Leo Motors, a U.S. and Korea-based company, has come up with a kit that can be used in any type of small to midsize vehicle platform, and can convert them to electric vehicles for real-world use for both highway and city traffic, Canadian Driver reports. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

Romancing the hatch

Mitsubishi introduces Sportback versions of Lancer

PETER BLEAKNEY
for Metro Canada

The 2009 Lancer Sportback is available in two trims: the GTS and the Ralliart.

You can't accuse Mitsubishi of bad timing. With auto buyers reportedly seeking smaller and more efficiently packaged vehicles to perform the daily chores, this seems a good time as any to introduce a hatchback ... er, sportback version of the compact Lancer sedan.

The numbers certainly support this. While Canadian compact four-door sales were up 7.6 per cent in 2008 over the previous year, compact five-door sales increased 14.4 per cent. Think Subaru Impreza hatchback, Toyota Matrix, VW Rabbit, Mazda3 Sport, Honda Fit, Dodge Caliber and Pontiac Vibe.

Joining this party is the 2009 Lancer Sportback, currently arriving in Mitsubishi showrooms. It comes in two trim levels: the front-wheel-drive GTS starting at $23,498 and the all-wheel-drive Ralliart that bows at $33,498. Both cars roll on 18-inch wheels, are mechanically identical to their four-door counterparts, and carry a price premium of $500.

The Lancer sedan is a handsomely chiselled piece, and this hatch version expands on those good looks.

The Lancer's hatch takes up a large swath of real estate, stretching from the top of the back bumper to just beyond the heads of the rear seat passengers. Lift over height is low, and with the 60/40 rear seats folded, the nearly flat load space expands cargo volume from 390 to 1320 litres in the Ralliart, and up to 435 to 1492 litres in the GTS, thanks to a clever dual height adjustable cargo floor that drops 90 mm. The Ralliart doesn't get this because of the all-wheel drive mechanicals.

The GTS is powered by an all-aluminum 2.4L four that generates 168 hp and 167 lb.-ft. of torque at 4100 r.p.m. Standard is a fine shifting five-speed manual transmission paired with a progressive clutch. A six-speed would have been nice, but regardless, the GTS feels quick and highway cruising is relaxed, showing 2500 r.p.m. at 100 km/h.

The Ralliart Sportback ramps up the performance (and price) considerably, not at all shy about its junior-Evo status.

The ride is stiff-legged, the standard fabric Recaro seats grip like a mother-in-law's embrace, and the Evo's 4B11 2.0L turbo (detuned from 291 hp to 237 hp via a smaller single-scroll turbo and intercooler) feels plenty strong.

2009 Mitsubishi Lancer GTS Sportback/ Ralliart Sportback

Type: Compact hatchback
Price: $23,498/$33,498
Engine: 2.4L four/2.0L turbocharged four
HP/Torque: 168 hp; 167 lb.-ft./237 hp, 253 lb.-ft.

Highlights

- Expands on the sedan's good looks
- Fun to drive

The Lancer features a sombre interior swathed in hard black plastic.

The iconic Nissan Cube.

Nissan reveals Cube price

Last week, Nissan Canada announced the pricing for the all-new 2009 Nissan cube, which goes on sale across Canada for the first time this spring.

With an MSRP of $16,998, the base model is loaded with standard equipment rarely offered in the entry-level market including air conditioning, privacy glass, full power features, vehicle dynamic control system (VDC), anti-lock braking system (ABS), cruise control and remote keyless entry.

With a focus on safety, standard on the Cube are advanced airbags for both driver and passenger, side seat airbags (front) and curtain side impact airbags in the front and rear.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

AutoPilot

Michael Goetz

Read this week's column at metronews.ca/autopilot

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Historical treasure

The 4,000-year-old Abraham's Gate at the Tel Dan Nature Reserve in northern Israel has reopened to the public after extensive restoration work. The reserve also has an archaeological site with the remains of the biblical city of Laish. See goisrael.ca. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Travel

Michael Palin, continued

Beloved ex-Monty Pythonite Michael Palin has made it big in the adventure travel realm, what with six TV travel series and an equal number of books under his belt. His bestselling book Full Circle, the story of a year spent journeying through 18 countries on the perimeter of the world's largest ocean, is being republished next month by McArthur & Company. METRO NEWS SERVICES

TRAVELDESK@METRONEWS.CA

Most interesting place names

1 Wee Waa, Australia: This cotton capital of Australia is actually a great place to learn more about the history of the country.

2 Why, Arizona: Don't expect a town full of hyper-philosophical people. The name is a derivative of the town's distinctive Y-shaped intersection of two major highways.

3 Kissing, Germany: This town in Bavaria could be the ideal location for true romantics.

4 Slime, Croatia: Hard to believe that this rafting town has such an off-putting moniker. In fact, it's known for its beauty as well as its hospitality.

5 Hell, Cayman Islands: Known for its eerie rock formations, the town has good-naturedly set up a post office so that postcards can literally be sent from Hell.

6 Truth or Consequences, New Mexico: When the producers of the famous radio game show put out a call in 1950 for a town to name itself after the program and then host the show, this small spa city of about 7,300 people stepped up and changed its name. REUTERS

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A taste for Tunisia

North African country offers a wide range of landscapes

ROMINA McGUINNESS
Metro World News

WITOLD RYKA

A view from the romantic blue-and-white village of Sidi Bou Said, Tunisia.

Move over Morocco — we've developed a taste for Tunisia. While the former destination may be something of a default for travellers looking to take in the sights and sounds of North Africa, Tunisia can offer an amazingly diverse variety of experiences.

Visitors can find everything from the hubbub of markets to the glitz of a high-society seaside resort and the eerie desert landscapes that formed an otherworldly backdrop for Star Wars.

Start your visit in the capital, Tunis, a melting pot of African culture. The pavements are busy with men who sit weaving jasmine petals into tight bunches — which locals wear behind the ear — and lined with European-style shops and cafés.

Avenue Habib Bourguiba, reminiscent of Paris' Champs Élysées, is home to some superb eateries, including the Café de Paris. This colonial haunt has a terrace designed for people-watching and serves the capital's best coffee. Make sure to include an afternoon visit to the Bardo Museum, which offers a look at some of the world's most valuable Roman mosaics.

On the outskirts of Tunis is the Phoenician city of Carthage. This world heritage site has incredible historical remnants and architecture, from archaic amphitheatres through crumbling Roman ruins. It's a mystical place that provides the perfect backdrop for a dynamic music scene — the amphitheatre often doubles up as a concert stage.

The romantic blue and white village of Sidi Bou Said was once a pilgrimage site and has since been favoured by bohemian intellectuals who come to discuss art and politics over tea or dinner.

The village is perched on the hilltops, and local cafés have the best views over the bay of Tunis, providing you with the perfect excuse to lounge on the terraces and drink orange-blossom-infused Turkish coffee.

Then head southwards down the coast to the seaside town of Hammamet. Twenty years ago this fishing village was home to kitsch seaside hotels and swamped by package vacation tourists.

Since then, the town's status as high-society's favourite address has risen as fast as August temperatures. This glitzy shore is basically the African equivalent to the French party town of St. Tropez.

The island of Djerba, off the Gulf of Gabes, is renowned for its seawater spa treatments and detox hotels.

Visit the Synagogue el-Ghriba or shop at Houmt Souk market on Monday mornings and browse for quirky leather bags, psychedelic clothes or bold and gold Berber jewels.

If the spa treatments have worked their magic, cycle the 10 kilometres to the village of Guellala where you will find all sorts of pottery and the desert sand crystal, Rose des Sables.

The Sahara desert begins south of Chott el-Jerid, the salt lake used as a backdrop in Star Wars. By day, jump in a Jeep and discover the golden dunes and by night, start a campfire and sleep under Bedouin tents.

The lunar landscape of Matmata, built by the Troglodyte community, doubled as the town of Sidi Driss in Star Wars. The Berber dug craters beneath the earth and created an underground labyrinth in order to escape the stifling heat.

More details

- For more information, visit tunisia.com.

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Metro Workology exclusive: Paws and Claws
Be sure to read Workology and Metronews.ca/work for our pet industry feature series Paws and Claws. Seen here is Trixie the cat, submitted by a loyal Metro reader.

Workology

uCalgary in deep debt

With the Alberta government confirming projected zero increases in PSE operating grants starting next year, shortfalls at the University of Calgary are forecast to climb from $17 million in 2010 to $47 million in 2012. To erase those deficits, the university must either cut spending or find other sources of revenue. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Metro readers'
Best friends

• Metro would like thank everyone who has sent in a picture of their pet, we'll try to publish as many as we can throughout the month of April.

Winnie

Ziggy

Shanti

Snoopy

Ace

Esteel, left, and Mishka

It's all about the best in show

Paws and **Claws**

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

In a competition of looks, grace and genetics, dogs prove that beauty pageants aren't just for people anymore.

Indeed, dog shows are serious as the pups (and their owners) strut their stuff in the spirit of competition.

At a recent show taking place in the small town of Fergus, Ont., some competitors brought dogs from cities hundreds of kilometres away or even across the U.S. border and judges converged from as far away as Manitoba, Texas and Brazil.

Edgar Bajona, show chair of the Fergus show, says the tension and competitive spirit at shows is palpable as owners vie for glory.

"It's a tense time — you hope your dog is going to win and the thrill of victory is huge," Edgar said.

Judging standards are developed by breeders and codified by organizations like the Canadian Kennel Club and detailed specifics are put out on things like the shape of the dog's teeth, colour of its hair, its general appearance, how it walks and even its temperament.

Geraldine Taylor, 71, has worked as a judge at dog shows for 30 years and says that a love for dogs is crucial to remain successful as a judge, as well as a keen eye for detail.

"There's no perfect dog. You have to try and find the one that matches the standard most closely and there's always more than one good dog in the ring. It isn't an exact science," Taylor said.

PHOTOS: RAFAEL BRUSILOW/FOR METRO CANADA

Left: Collies pose for the judges and await the results. Right: Christine Tochor, 23, right, with Ace at a recent dog show.

Dog handler Christine Tochor, 23, handles dogs part-time for clients and says good handlers have to forge a meaningful bond with the dogs they handle.

"The dogs trust a lot in the handler, so you have to learn how to have a relationship with a dog," she said.

A love for dogs got her interested in handling but a competitive spirit is what keeps her coming back.

"I like to compete and I like to try and win. I'm certainly not here to lose, that's for sure!" Tochor joked. She was at the show to compete with her mother's Great Pyrenees, Ace.

As dog handlers scrambled to and from one of the judging rings at the show, Tochor emerged with Ace's leash — and a Best of Breed medal ribbon — in hand.

"We won!" she said.

For more of the Paws and Claws exclusive series check Workology frequently or stop by: **metronews.ca/work**

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Canadians worried about research cuts
According to a new Harris Decima poll, 67 per cent of Canadians are concerned about university research funding cuts, and of those 50 per cent stated they were "very concerned." METRO NEWS SERVICES

Mat leave can thwart dismissal

WorkplaceLaw

It is one of the least understood — and most contentious — issues in employment law. An employee is fired either shortly before, or during, her maternity leave. The employee claims she was fired because she was pregnant or took time away. She says her replacement, who has less seniority, took the job she ought to have retained. The employer, of course, disagrees: Her position no longer exists, or if it does, her termination was unrelated to her leave. This scenario unfolds at workplaces throughout the country, and our courts are increasingly asked to intervene.

Generally, I recommend three approaches:

Sue for wrongful dismissal:

When 29-year-old Lorna Harris was dismissed from her work on the company's assembly line, she sued for wrongful dismissal. Harris, who was three months pregnant when fired, argued that she ought to receive additional severance, as it would be more difficult for her to find other work. The court agreed. Although it was not clear whether her employer, Yorkville Sound, fired Harris because she was pregnant, it did not matter. Rejecting the company's argument that where pregnancy is not a factor in the dismissal, it should not be a factor in calculating damages, the court awarded Harris an additional two months' severance, concluding she deserved more than a non-pregnant employee would receive. If there is evidence that the employee was fired because she was pregnant, a court or human rights tribunal can also award additional damages for discrimination.

If you are fired before, during or after your pregnancy, there are many legal avenues for you to explore to get just compensation.

File a complaint with the Ministry of Labour:

Employment standards legislation provides various levels of protection. In Ontario and British Columbia, employment laws require employers to reinstate employees following their maternity leave, with few exceptions. Aside from restructuring, downsizing or where the position no longer exists, the employee is entitled to her pre-leave position or a comparable job if her old job no longer exists.

An employee must actually commence maternity leave in order to receive any protection from provincial statutes. If she is fired even one day before her leave begins, provincial ministries of labour, which enforce employment standards, will not intervene. In these cases, an employee can turn to the courts or provincial human rights tribunals, where even just the fact of being pregnant can be sufficient to justify additional compensation.

Threaten proceedings and then negotiate for more:

Employees are owed severance pay when terminated before, during or after their maternity leave. It is open to them to argue that their personal circumstances entitle them to more. Make this argument with an experienced lawyer — not on your own.

Daniel A. Lublin is an employment lawyer focusing on the law of dismissal; dan@canadaemploymentlawyer.com.

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University of Regina upping the ante
Over the next couple of months, the University of Regina will begin rolling out its new marketing strategy — including a new logo and identifiable slogans — aimed at boosting its profile provincially, nationally and worldwide. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Worker 'sucking up' bad for business

If there's a bit more false flattery and loud enthusiasm at the office than usual, don't be surprised.

Whether it's called buttering up the boss, brown-nosing, sucking up or managing up, experts say ingratiating behaviour is bound to be on the rise in the workplace as workers fret about keeping their jobs in tough economic times.

But such behaviour can be bad for business, they said.

"People who tend to 'manage up' anyway are managing up more. They really want to make sure people are noticing what they're doing," said Max Caldwell, an expert in workforce effectiveness at Towers Perrin management consultants.

"It's a mentality of 'I not only want to do a good job, but I want to be seen as doing a good job,'" he said.

That behaviour increases when stakes are high, said Jennifer Chatman, professor of organizational behaviour at the University of California at Berkeley.

"It's what we do when we feel ourselves vulnerable or susceptible to the decisions of others," she said. "I would have every expectation that if we went out and tried to collect data right now, that it was going on in a big way because people are feeling more vulnerable."

In such an environment, underlings may be more likely to lavish praise on bad decisions or poor judgment by a boss and avoid being candid or bearing bad news, she said.

"It can be bad for business, keeping the yea-sayers around," Chatman said.

But according to some researchers, sucking up works.

Challenging a chief executive less, complimenting the CEO more and doing the CEO a personal favour increased the likelihood of being appointed to a corporate board by 64 per cent, a University of Texas study found.

Come in earlier

In a separate study that Chatman conducted, jobseekers using ingratiating behaviour were 20 per cent more likely to land a job.

It's human nature, she said. "People who bring positive information, that stroke the boss, that make the boss feel good about the decisions he or she has made, that build up the boss' confidence, those people are going to do better," she said.

It's nothing to be ashamed of, said Frances Cole Jones, a professional coach and author of How to Wow. In tough times, she said, go to work early, stay late, attend meetings and volunteer for extra work.

"In times like these, the smart thing to do is to 'suck up' — or, perhaps, 're-commit,'" she said. "These days employees need to be flexible, ambidextrous, creative and committed." REUTERS

How best to 'butter up the boss'

- Stephen Viscusi, author of Bulletproof Your Job, suggested a simple change in work habits. "If you come in five minutes earlier than the boss and stay five minutes later, the boss doesn't know how long you're there. He just knows that you're always working."

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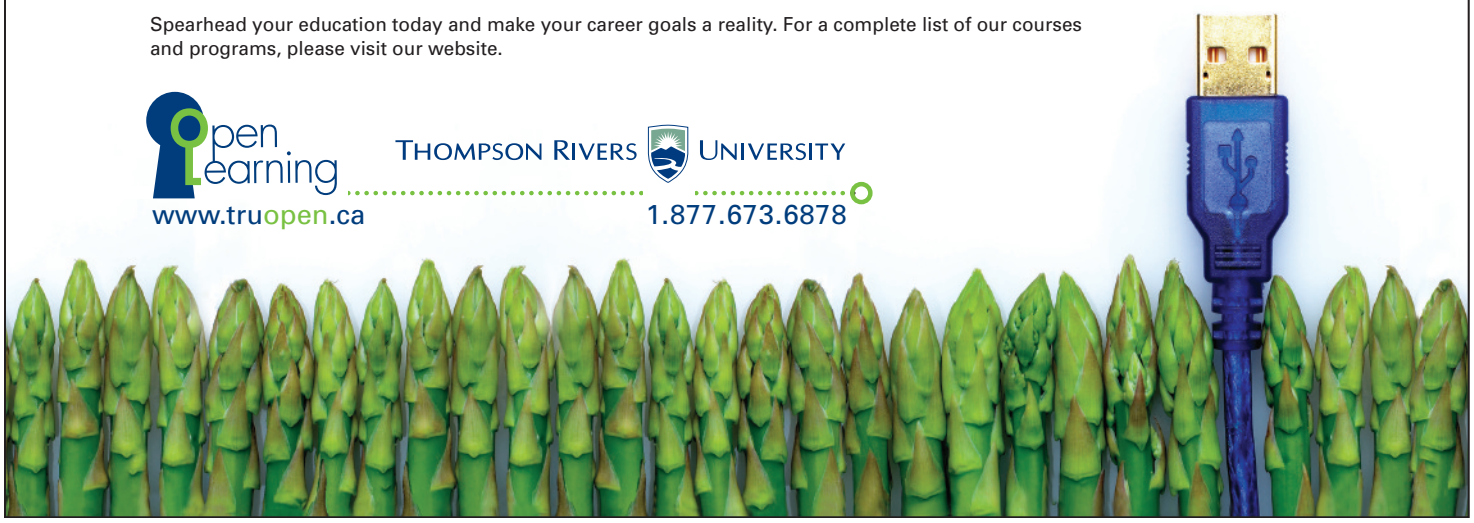

Swine flu delays movie premiere

Not even a superhero is immune to the swine flu virus. Twentieth Century Fox has decided to postpone the premiere of X-Men Origins: Wolverine set for today in Mexico City, as the city remains paralyzed by the virus that has killed more than 100 people. **PEOPLE.COM**

Entertainment

Italian wedding

Hollywood couple Maggie Gyllenhaal and Peter Sarsgaard will marry in Italy in May, according to the New York Post. The pair has been dating since 2002, and have a daughter.

FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Peet embarks on Gulliver's Travels

CASTING Amanda Peet has joined the cast of the adventure movie Gulliver's Travels opposite Jack Black.

Peet

The 20th Century Fox film, derived from Jonathan Swift's classic story, also stars Jason Segel and Emily Blunt.

The modern retelling follows travel writer Lemuel Gulliver, who heads to an assignment in the Bermuda Triangle only to end up on the secret island of Lilliput, home to a population of industrious tiny people.

Johnson to play porn director

CASTING Don Johnson will play a mustachioed porn director in Born to Be a Star.

Nick Swardson stars in the film as a nerd who learns that his parents were famous porn stars in the 1970s. This motivates him to leave Iowa for Hollywood, hoping to follow in their footsteps. Johnson plays a director who discovers Swardson and gives him a shot. **REUTERS**

Wolverine takes dark turn

Hugh Jackman sharpens claws for mutant superhero role one more time

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

Hugh Jackman has made a career of leaping from genre to genre, proving he's just as adept in big, loud action films as he is singing and dancing on a Broadway stage — or even hosting the Oscars.

But for most fans around the world, he's best known for the iconic role that made him famous in the first place: Wolverine.

It's a part he could have missed out on if he'd listened to his wife, who balked at the comic-book action in the pages sent over for Jackman's audition.

"She put it down, saying, 'This is ridiculous. You were at the National Theatre with Sir Trevor Nunn. You can't be doing this,'" Jackman remembers with a laugh. "That's the only time she's ever been wrong, according to her."

Now, after three incredibly successful X-Men films that helped revive the comic book movie genre, the nearly indestructible mutant with the sour mood and the razor-sharp claws is getting his own movie, X-Men Origins: Wolverine, in theatres Friday. And even though he's stepping into the part for the fourth time, Jackman hasn't gotten tired of him.

Actor Hugh Jackman stars in his own superhero movie, X-Men Origins: Wolverine, which is in theatres this Friday.

In fact, it was Jackman's attachment to the character that encouraged him to also take on the role of producer. "I wanted to protect as much as I could the Logan that I saw," Jackman explains. "I thought he got a bit soft by X-Men 3. I wanted to make him a little darker, keep a little more edge to him."

He also hasn't gotten tired of Wolverine's signature muttonchops. "I'm so used to it now," he says. "Without it, I feel a bit weird. But you know, it's not a great look. You just look odd."

Wolverine has always been a pretty macho character, but it turns out Jackman was never satisfied with exactly how macho he was until this film. "I didn't want people to go, 'That guy looks like he works out,'" Jackman explains. "I wanted them to feel danger, power. I wanted him to be veiny, animalistic."

To achieve the look, the actor spent a year in training, packing on pounds through weight-lifting, conditioning and eating. "If it turns out that we should all be vegetarian and there's some kind of karmic debt to be paid for eating animals, I am some kind of gnat in the next life."

Movie feature

"I wanted (people) to feel danger, power. I wanted him to be veiny, animalistic."
Hugh Jackman

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In brief

CASTING Universal Pictures is resurrecting the 1991 comedy Drop Dead Fred, this time as a starring vehicle for comedian Russell Brand. The original starred Phoebe Cates as a wallflower who loses her job and husband. Forced to move back home, she's reunited with her childhood imaginary friend. **REUTERS**

Kenya's**Style**

Kenya Hunt

Read the blog at metronews.ca/kenyasstyle

For complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and tickets, visit: **metronews.ca/movies**

A lifetime of achievement
Meryl Streep is set to rule October's Rome Film Festival — she will be honoured with the top award, the Marcus Aurelius Lifetime Achievement Award, to mark her outstanding career. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

No friends? Watch TV

Study shows television watching may ease loneliness

Watching TV might not make you happy, but for some viewers it beats being alone.

Four new studies by the University at Buffalo and Miami University of Ohio found that watching TV can drive away feelings of loneliness and rejection. The studies are reported in the Journal of Experimental Social Psychology and suggest that watching TV provides viewers with the illusion that their social needs are being met.

"The research provides evidence for the 'social surrogacy hypothesis,' which holds that humans can use technologies, like television, to provide the experience of belonging when no real belongingness has been experienced," said one of the study's authors, Shira Gabriel. "We also argue that other commonplace technologies such as movies, music or interactive video games, as well as television, can fulfill this need."

The first study found that subjects felt less lonely when viewing their favourite TV shows. Study 2 found that subjects whose "belongingness needs were aroused" wrote longer essays about their favoured TV programs. The third study found that thinking about favoured TV programs buffered subjects against drops in self-esteem, increases in negative mood and feelings of rejection. And Study 4 found that subjects verbally expressed fewer feelings of loneliness after writing essays about their preferred TV programs.

Researchers concluded that a viewer's fictional bond with TV characters can help ease their need to connect with others. The study authors noted, however, that "it remains an open question whether social surrogacy suppresses belongingness needs or actually fulfills them." They acknowledge that "the kind of social surrogacy provoked by these programs can be a poor substitution for 'real' human-to-human experience."

"Turning one's back on family and friends for the solace of television may be maladaptive and leave a person with fewer resources over time," the University at Buffalo's Jaye L. Derrick said. "But for those who have difficulty experiencing social interaction because of physical or environmental constraints, technologically induced belongingness may offer comfort." REUTERS

Other findings

- A previous study found that unhappy people watch more TV, while those who consider themselves happy spend more time reading and socializing.

Researchers concluded that a viewer's fictional bond with TV characters can help ease their need to connect with others.

U.S. cracks down on cursing

COURTS The Supreme Court upheld a U.S. government crackdown on profanity on television yesterday, a policy that subjects broadcasters to fines for airing a single expletive blurted out on a live show.

In its first ruling on broadcast indecency standards in more than 30 years, the high court handed a victory to the Federal Communications Commission, which adopted the crackdown against the one-time use of profanity on live television when children are likely to be watching. The case stemmed from an FCC ruling in 2006 that found News Corp.'s Fox television network violated decency rules when singer Cher blurted out an expletive during the 2002 Billboard Music Awards broadcast and actress Nicole Richie used two expletives during the 2003 awards.

The FCC, under the administration of former U.S. president George Bush, had embarked on a crackdown of indecent content on broadcast TV. REUTERS

In brief

COURTS "No time to think of consequences/Take only what you need from it," sings American psychedelic indie rock band MGMT in its popular anthem Kids. This was exactly what French President Nicolas Sarkozy's UMP party did when it used the song without the band's permission. Now the ruling UMP party, which faced the threat of a lawsuit, has agreed to pay a financial compensation to the band, MGMT's French lawyer said yesterday, adding that the band would be giving the fee to an artists' rights organization. REUTERS

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primetime 4/29/09	251	308	3 CBC	NHL Hockey Western Conference Quarterfinal Game 7 -- Anaheim Ducks at San Jose Sharks.						To Be Announced		
	255	358	6 JOY	E! News (N)	The Insider	Engagement	TBA	Janice Dickinson Modeling		Running-Heels	Kardashians	News (N)
	254	-	8 M	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Omni News: Mandarin Edition		News: Cantonese Edition		Omni News: Punjabi Edition		Metropia
	250	321	9 CTV	etalk (CC)	Hollywood	Criminal Minds (N) (CC)		American Idol (CC)		CSI: NY "Yahrzeit" (N) (CC)		News (N)
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	252	336	11 GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	Lie to Me "Undercover" (N)		Bones (N) (PA) (CC)		(:02) The Unusuals "42" (N)		News (N)
	256	389	12 VI	Instant Star	TMZ (N) (CC)	America's Next Top Model (N)		Lost "The Variable" (N) (CC)		Law & Order "Promote This!"		News (N)
	253	359	13 CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Scrubs (CC)	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Less-Kind	Murdoch Mysteries (N)		The List
	-	-	14 CW	Deal-No Deal	Deal-No Deal	America's Next Top Model (N)		90210 (CC)		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15 CBS	Entertainment	The Insider	Engagement	Old Christine	Criminal Minds (N) (CC)		CSI: NY "Yahrzeit" (N) (CC)		News (N)
	287	379	16 NBC	Evening Mag.	Inside Edition	Law & Order "Rumble" (CC)		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order "Promote This!"		News (N)
	602	568	19 W	Will & Grace	Friends (CC)	Grocery Bag	Grocery	Supersize vs. Supersknny		Stuck (N)	Maxed Out	Maxed Out
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	-	-	23 KVOS	M*A*S*H	Seinfeld	In Her Defense ★★ (1998) Michael Dudikoff, Marlee Matlin.				King	Still Standing	Scrubs (CC)
	291	383	27 PBS	Steves Europe	West Coast	Secrets of the Dead (CC)		Cry for Help (N) (PA) (CC)		Legacy of War (N)		MI-5 (CC)
	290	382	28 FOX	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Lie to Me "Undercover" (N)		American Idol (CC)		News (N) (CC)		Family Guy
	-	364	29 PBS	No Ordinary Joe: Erasing		Keeping Up	Being Served	Tavis Smiley	Charlie Rose (N) (CC)		Asparagus: Stalking	
	296	654	34 SBK	Frasier (CC)	Frasier (CC)	Punk'd (CC)	South Park	Cheers (CC)	Half & Half	Work Home	Family Court	Paid Program
	298	653	35 TLA	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	America's Next Top Model (N)		90210 (CC)		KTLA Prime News (CC)		Friends (CC)
	295	651	36 WGN	WGN News at Nine (N) (CC)		Family Guy	Two/Half Men	According-Jim	Sex and-City	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	My Wife-Kids
	297	652	37 WPX	PIX News at Ten Tong. (N)		Two/Half Men	Friends (CC)	Sex and-City	According-Jim	Frasier (CC)	Frasier (CC)	Odd Couple
	199	311	76 STR	News (N)	News		Late Show-Letterman		Late Late Show		Will & Grace	Seinfeld
news	502	390	63 NW	CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National		CBC News: The National		Planet Earth "Jungles" (CC)		National
	500	500	68 CNN	Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		Anderson Cooper 360 (N)		Larry King Live		Presidential News Conference		Report Card
sports	407	419	42 RSP	MLB Baseball		Sportsnet Connected (Live)		The Ultimate Fighter		Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet
	400	400	60 TSN	NHL Hockey: Conf. Quarterfinal			SportsCentre (Live) (CC)		UEFA Champ. League Soccer			SportsCentre
	411	457	49 OLN	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Departures "Cuba" (CC)		Mantracker	Mantracker	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Departures
	410	403	54 SCR	Score Tonight		Hardcore Hockey Talk		Final Score	Final Score	Final Score	Final Score	Final Score
	417	406	55 SC	Wrecked	Wrecked	Pimp My Ride	Pass Time	Thunder	Pinks Out	Pinks	Drag Race	Wrecked
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family	552	543	25 YTV	In Real Life "Dirty Jobs" (N)		Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	Karaoke Star Junior "Halifax"		Falcon Beach (CC)		Mystery Hnt.
	555	545	50 TEL	Totally Spies	Total Drama	6TEEN	6TEEN	Futurama	American Dad	Chicken	Father	Moral Orel
	557	541	51 FAM	Wizards-Place	Han. Montana	Zack & Cody	Latest Buzz	Wizards-Place	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
	553	546	53 TRE	Comfy Couch	Big & Small	Max & Ruby	Babar (CC)	Backyard	Dora-Explorer	Go, Diego, Go!	Franklin (CC)	Comfy Couch
cable variety	268	354	5 KNO	Canada-Undiscovered Land		India with Sanjeev Bhaskar		Beethoven "The Rebel" (CC)		The Voice of Bryn Terfel		Montreal Jazz
	575	583	20 CMT	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Totally "2003"		Home Imp.	Home Imp.	Reba (CC)	Reba (CC)	Hope & Faith
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	615	520	61 A&E	Bounty Hunter	Exterminators	Exterminators	Exterminators	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Dog the Bounty Hunter (CC)	
	628	584	62 SPKE	The Ultimate Fighter (N)		Deadliest Warrior		CSI: NY "Risk" (CC)		The Ultimate Fighter		Disorderly
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	616	522	65 SHO	The Outer Limits (CC)		Cashing In	About a Girl	G-Spot (N)	Cock'd Gunns	Starter Wife (CC)		House (CC)
	620	523	70 BVO	Southland "See the Woman"		Law & Order "Caviar Emptor"		Without a Trace (CC)		Southland (CC)		Red Shoe
	601	562	71 SLC	End of Leash	End of Leash	ET Canada	Til Debt-Part	Real Housewives OC		Trading Spouses		Paradise Hotel
	520	505	72 DIS	Mayday "Fatal Distraction"		Daily Planet (CC)		Mayday "Invisible Killer"		Treasure Quest (CC)		Deadliest
	522	506	74 HIS	NCIS "Dog Tags" (CC)		Outlaw Bikers (CC)		Ice Road Truckers (CC)		NCIS "Dog Tags" (CC)		Sea Hunters
	627	528	75 SPC	Star Trek IV	The Circuit	Stargate SG-1 "Descent"		Star Trek: Next Gener.		Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home ★★★ (CC)		
	294	650	77 TBS	House-Payne	House-Payne	Sex and-City	Sex and-City	My Boys	The Devil's Advocate ★★ (1997) (PA) Keanu Reeves. (CC)			
	619	525	78 TROP	Vanity	Ad Persuasion	Ad Persuasion	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Raymond	Family Guy	Married... With	Seinfeld
	603	561	82 FN	Ultimate Recipe Showdown		Opening Soon	Opening Soon	Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Diner, Drive-In	Diner, Drive-In	Ult. Recipe
	626	547	87 COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs (CC)		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Jon Dore	Martin	Daily Show
	320	621	90 CEN	Speed Racer ★★ (2008) Emile Hirsch, Christina Ricci. (CC)				(:15) Traitor ★★★ (2008) Don Cheadle, Guy Pearce. (CC)				Missed Call
	581	566	101 MTV	Real World-Road Rules		MTV Live	After	College Life	Beatdown	Real World-Road Rules		MTV Live
	261	394	102 V	Driven-Vision	Supernatural	Poltergeist: The Legacy		I Was a Male War Bride ★★★ (1949) Cary Grant. (CC)				Paid Program
	-	-	105 MUL	Eight Heroes	Mom's-Upset	Van. Nights	Iranian Pop	Sabor Latino		Sabor Musical	Travel TV	Patrol World

critics' corner

Rules of Engagement
Audrey (Megyn Price) invites their friend Steve (guest star Tony Hale) to stay with her and Jeff (Patrick Warburton) after discovering that his marriage is in trouble, but she comes to rue her act of kindness once she realizes Steve is prone to giving "inappropriate" hugs. David Spade also stars in the new episode "May Divorce Be With You." 8 PM on CBS

Law & Order
After an illegal immigrant is found unconscious but still alive on a service road, Detectives Bernard and Lupo (Anthony Anderson, Jeremy Sisto) embark on a controversial investigation into a series of nine hate crimes against Hispanic men, reflecting a dangerous bias in the community. Linus Roache also stars in the new episode "Promote This!" 10 PM on NBC

Julia swears like a sailor?

Get Julia Roberts a bar of soap. At a Film Society of Lincoln Center event honouring Tom Hanks in NYC Monday, the Duplicity star, 41, dropped the F-bomb several times, usmagazine.com reports. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Liam coping well, pal says

PEOPLE Liam Neeson "is doing extremely well" in the wake of his wife Natasha Richardson's tragic death last month, the actor's pal, Aidan Quinn, tells usmagazine.com.

"He's very grateful for all the love and support he's gotten from across the globe and from so many people," Quinn told Us Friday at the NYC premiere of The Eclipse. "He's got a great family and a great support system of friends, and they're all doing as well as expected under the circumstances."

Neeson's two sons, Micheal, 13, and Daniel, 12, are also "doing amazingly well," Quinn added. "You know, I think these things take a long time to probably sink in. There's no timetable for it. So they're doing great."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Jesus rides on Madonna's fame?

CAREER Marc Jacobs has reportedly joined the campaign for Madonna's toy boy, Jesus Luz to stay in the country, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

According to a New York Post source, Jacobs "wrote a letter of support for Jesus' work permit" to allow him to stay in the country. "Marc campaigned for Jesus, saying he is highly talented and a necessity to the label."

So maybe all those rumours about Jesus starring with Madonna in the new Louis Vuitton campaign are true after all then?

If not, at least he has the new Dolce & Gabbana menswear campaign to fall back on, while persistent rumours float around that he only got that gig thanks to Madonna's connections.

A source told the Post: "All these fashion lines are hiring Jesus as a favour to Madonna. As long as he can legally work in the U.S., they can be together."

However, Madonna's rep said she's "not at all involved in managing the career of Jesus Luz. His Dolce job was arranged through his agents," and Madge hadn't asked anyone to help him.

According to Gatecrasher, Luz's fellow male models aren't so sure. At a recent catwalk event, "None of the other models would talk to Jesus or even look at him," a source says. "They were gossiping like catty girls about how they couldn't wait for his career to fizzle out."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Lindsay takes off on tropical break

PEOPLE Lindsay Lohan showed off her super slim bikini body in Hawaii over the weekend, usmagazine.com reports.

The actress — who is on vacation with a few of her pals — read a book and sent text message as she worked on her tan Saturday. On Sunday, she dropped thousands of dollars on Gucci and Louis Vuitton bags.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Heidi loves married life

MARRIAGE Heidi Montag is so thrilled about being married to Spencer Pratt that she can't stop updating her Twitter about it.

On Sunday — the day after the couple's wedding — she posted several updates, including "Watching movies and relaxing — this has been the best day as a married woman."

And the next morning, she wrote: "Wow, what a morning! Waking up with my husband is beyond words! I'm so excited I'm really married! Forever!"

METRO WORLD NEWS

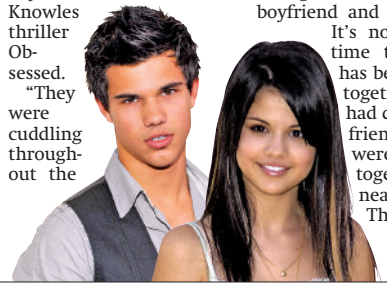
Selena and Taylor's romance?

RUMOUR Selena Gomez and Taylor Lautner stepped out together in Vancouver over the weekend, sparking rumours that the Disney star and the Twilight hunk are more than just friends, people.com reports.

When they had a break from filming — him New Moon and her Ramona and Beezus — Lautner, 17, picked up Gomez, 16, at her hotel Saturday, and headed for dinner at the upscale Cactus Club in Coquitlam, B.C..

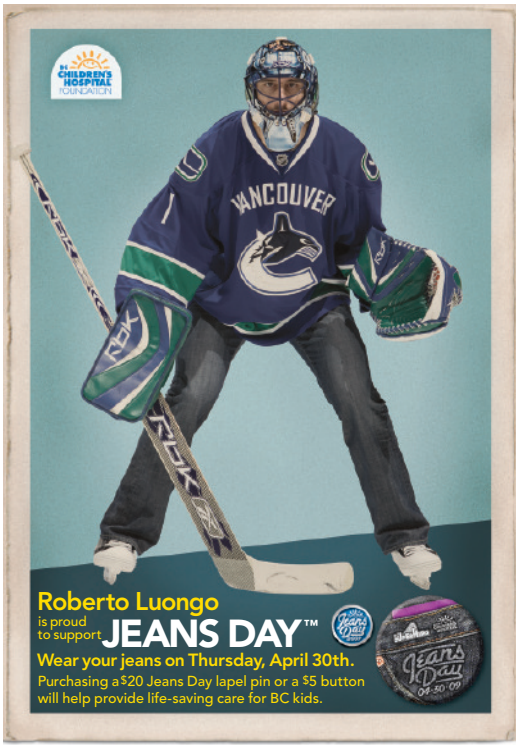
After dinner, they linked arms and walked to a nearby movie theatre to see the Beyoncé Knowles thriller Obsessed.

"They were cuddling throughout the movie and sat very close together," says an onlooker. "(They were) definitely acting like they were boyfriend and girlfriend."



It's not the first time the couple has been spotted together. They had dinner with friends and were spotted together at a nearby café on Thursday.

METRO NEWS SERVICES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Wear your jeans on Thursday, April 30th.
Purchasing a $20 Jeans Day lapel pin or a $5 button
will help provide life-saving care for BC kids.
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LAPEL PIN SPONSOR: Pacific Blue Cross
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No mercy for Alba's driving

LEGAL Actress Jessica Alba was pulled over by police in California last Friday for driving in the wrong direction down a one-way street, femalefirst.co.uk reports. A cop approached the Fantastic Four actress after she was spotted driving in the opposite way to the traffic flow in Santa Monica.

Alba reportedly tried to talk her way out of being reprimanded for the blunder — but police still issued her with a ticket.

Before she drove away, paparazzi filmed the star joking with the officer, giggling and asking him, "So if I want to fight it (contest the ticket), do you have to show up in court? Wouldn't that be your lucky day?"

METRO NEWS SERVICES

JT forced tequila binge on Biel?

PARTYING Justin Timberlake forced girlfriend Jessica Biel to down shots of alcohol on the weekend, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The pop heartthrob and the actress were guests at two separate birthday parties on Saturday night, both held in Los Angeles' Thompson Hotel.

A few hours into the evening Biel, 27, was ready to ditch alcohol for soft drinks, but 28-year-old Timberlake wanted to carry on frivolities.

One fellow reveller told the New York Daily News newspaper: "Everyone was downing shots of tequila, but Jessica said she didn't want to drink anymore. Justin good-naturedly insisted, so she pulled her hair back and drank up."

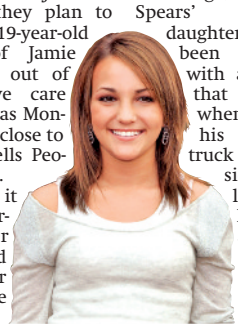
METRO NEWS SERVICES

GETTY IMAGES

Spears' boyfriend OK

CRASH Good news for Casey Aldridge: Doctors at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, Miss., said they plan to move the 19-year-old boyfriend of Jamie Lynn Spears out of the intensive care unit as early as Monday, a source close to the family tells People magazine.

"They said it was borderline whether he needed surgery or not," says the source, "but they've taken some scans and see no further damage."



Aldridge, the father of Spears' 10-month-old daughter Maddie, has been hospitalized with a head injury that he suffered when he flipped his F-250 pickup truck on the driver's side on a two-lane road in Louisiana after a bachelor party on Sunday.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

The Weather Network 20 YEARS
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Today Partly cloudy 16°/ 9°
Thursday Partly cloudy 15°/ 8°
Friday Sunny 15°/ 9°

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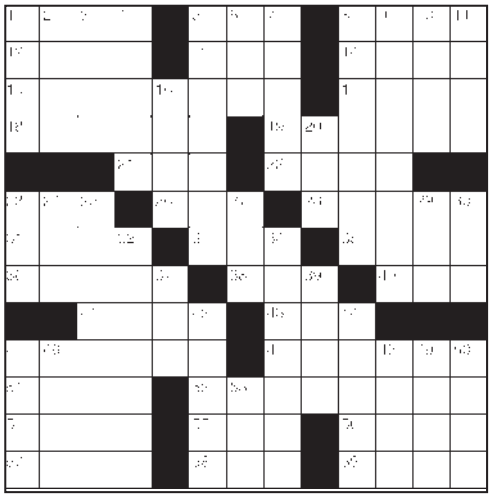
Take Five



Crossword across

1 Dodge model
5 Luncheonette order
8 Open a crack
12 Fork option
13 Bruce or Brenda
14 Glazier's sheet
15 Economic saves
17 Pocket bread
18 All over the place
19 Steering lever
21 Roulette bet
22 Impale
23 Cauldron
26 Family room
28 Hotel offering
31 Historic times
33 Clergyman's address
35 See 34-Down
36 Anxiety
38 Durable wood
40 Pair on stage
41 Easter symbol
43 CSA soldier
45 Rancher
47 Vacillate
51 Botanical angle
52 Infallibly problem-free
54 Kelly or Wilder
55 Army member
56 Shrek is one
57 Make — meet
58 Shaft of light
59 Snatched

Crossword down

1 Scepter toppers
2 Castle protection
3 Depilatory brand
4 Hammock occupant
5 Screw-up
6 Hindrance
7 Criteria
8 Clap
9 Con
10 Initial stake
11 Caboose's position
16 As yet unpaid
20 "Monty Python" opener
23 Shooter ammo
24 Assoc.
25 Nature's way of hastening a flight
27 Modern (Prefix)
29 Greek cross
30 Id counterpart
32 Horses' housing
34 With 35-Across, 1927 melody
37 Latin 101 word
39 Howard of musicals
42 Considerably
44 Muddle with drink
45 "Face/Off" actor
46 The yoke's on them
48 Palm type
49 Frizzy do
50 Hebdomad
53 Santa —, Calif.

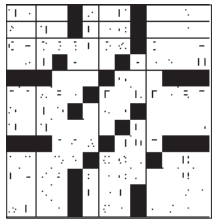
Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

					8		5	
4	9				7	6		
	6		2			1		
	3			5	4		9	
9								3
	1		9	2			6	
		1			9		2	
		7	5				1	4
	8		4					

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



2	1	8	4	7	6	5	9	3
3	7	5	1	9	2	6	8	4
9	4	6	3	5	8	2	1	7
4	2	9	5	8	7	1	3	6
7	5	1	6	4	3	8	2	9
6	8	3	2	1	9	7	4	5
5	3	7	9	2	1	4	6	8
8	9	2	7	6	4	3	5	1
1	6	4	8	3	5	9	7	2

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:
Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min.....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day

Emerald Risotto

INGREDIENTS:
5 cups (1.25 L) vegetable stock, or 4 tbsp (60 ml) vegetable bouillon powder
5 tbsp (75 ml) white wine
1 pack baby spinach
4 tbsp (60 ml) virgin olive oil
1 small onion
2 cloves garlic
1 3/4 cups (425 ml) risotto rice
Salt and black pepper
Whole nutmeg for grating

METHOD:
1. Bring stock to boil in pot, or stir bouillon powder into 5 cups (1.25 L) boiling water. Add wine, reduce heat and simmer.
2. Rinse spinach leaves, chop roughly and set aside.
3. Heat oil in large pan or wok. Peel and finely chop onion and garlic and fry gently until soft but not brown, 2 minutes. Then add rice and stir-fry until grains are translucent and coated with oil.
4. Add ladleful of stock, adjust heat to maintain gentle boil and stir until liquid is mostly absorbed. Keep adding stock, a ladleful at a time, and stir constantly until the rice is almost cooked, 15 minutes.
5. Add spinach and more stock and boil, stirring, until rice is cooked — risotto rice should retain a bite, but mixture should be of a soft, dropping consistency.
6. Season to taste with salt, pepper and some freshly grated nutmeg. Serve straight from pan.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!

Reader's Digest
It's a Wonderful World

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Strengthen your position by pointing out your leadership skills. A twist of fate damages morale. A woman won't work due to a quarrel.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
A wild person changes your mind. A sympathetic friend is available to promote your skills. See the humour when dealing with a faltering fool.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
A new task is given to an enthusiastic job-hunter. Be ready to call about a machine. A loving guy is liberated after enduring terrible trouble.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Something's gained when career plans stall. An illogical loss causes resentment and retaliation. An authority searches for a remedy.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Give due respect to an attendant. A new friend causes an inconvenience. A reality check disturbs others.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Deception interferes with your sense of purpose. Make amends by being honest. A health scare causes a discussion.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
A frightened person's character discourages attachment. Open your mind to see a different side of things. A clever accuser makes the rounds.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
A man reveals his bad habits. A woman has a significant dream. Do the right thing to comfort and inspire others.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
A strange form of insecurity may arise. Explain yourself when gossip incites unusual reactions. Joyful news magically appears.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Get ready to follow your dreams. You'll be eager to move forward. Family issues are not your fault.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
Ruthlessness shouldn't be indulged. Restrain your temper with an overbearing person. Nostalgia grows when a younger person falls in love.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
A chirpy female's ironic remark defeats a plan. A lover's information may cause confusion. A miserable situation results from sadness.

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Oakridge Centre
Pacific Centre
2163 West 4th Ave.
501 West Georgia St.
101 - 925 West Georgia St.
5720 East Blvd.
689 Thurlow St.
3 - 1855 Burrard St.
3343 West Broadway
2748 Rupert St.
1 - 525 Seymour St.
150 - 625 Howe St.
105 - 950 West Broadway
1707 Robson St.
1092 Kingsway
10 - 3490 Kingsway

Aldergrove
310 - 26310 Fraser Hwy.

Abbotsford
Sevenoaks Shopping Centre
2 - 32915 South Fraser Way
1 - 2142 Clearbrook Rd.
401 - 2140 Sumas Way

Burnaby
Brentwood Mall
Crystal Square
Lougheed Mall
Metrotown/Metropolis
214B - 4501 North Rd.
4711 Kingsway
7531 Market Crossing
111 - 3823 Henning Dr.
204B - 3430 Brighton Ave.

Chilliwack
Cottonwood Mall
103 - 45300 Luckakuck Way
11 - 45905 Yale Rd.
7544B Vedder Rd.

Cloverdale
201 - 17725 64th Ave.

Coquitlam
Coquitlam Centre
101 - 3278 Westwood St.
5 - 3000 Lougheed Hwy.
2700B Barnet Hwy.
22 - 2988 Glen Dr.
2 - 901 Lougheed Hwy.

New Westminster
Royal City Centre

Delta
Scottsdale Mall
7235 120th St.
1517 56th St.

Langley
Walnut Grove Town Centre
Willowbrook Shopping Centre
3 - 19638 Fraser Hwy.
103 - 19700 Langley Bypass
C104 - 20159 88th Ave.
19971 96th Ave.
C7 - 20202 66th Ave.

Maple Ridge
22661 Lougheed Hwy.

Mission
100 - 32670 Lougheed Hwy.
318 - 32555 London Ave.

North Vancouver
Capilano Mall
127 - 1199 Lynn Valley Rd.
1295 Marine Dr.
1748 Lonsdale Ave.
1392 Main St.

Port Moody
202 Newport Dr.

Pitt Meadows
735 - 19800 Lougheed Hwy.

Richmond
Aberdeen Centre
Admiralty Centre Mall
Ironwood Mall
Lansdowne Mall
Parker Place
Richmond Centre
115 - 12571 Bridgeport Rd.

Surrey
Central City Shopping Centre
Guildford Town Centre
201 - 13734 104th Ave.
135 - 12477 88th Ave.
2404 King George Hwy.
1675 128th St.
108 - 7380 King George Hwy.
403 - 15940 Fraser Hwy.
10310A 152nd St.

West Vancouver
Park Royal Shopping Centre
North/South

White Rock
Semiahmoo Shopping Centre
10 - 3189 King George Hwy.

OKANAGAN/NORTHERN BC

Aberdeen Mall (Kamloops)
Northills Centre (Kamloops)
Orchard Park Mall (Kelowna)
Spall Plaza (Kelowna)
Cherry Lane Shopping Centre (Penticton)
Pine Centre (Prince George)
Piccadilly Mall (Salmon Arm)
Village Green Mall (Vernon)

Whistler
7009 Nesters Rd.

Squamish
38116 2nd Ave.